



NEWS RELEASE

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STATE POLICE TO CONDUCT "OPERATION MSP BLITZ" THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND IN EVERY REGION OF THE STATE

(Pikesville, Maryland) - August 28, 2003 - As football season begins, Maryland State Police will conduct "Operation MSP Blitz" over this Labor Day weekend and work driving under the influence saturation patrols, aggressive driver and speed enforcement operations statewide to seek out, cite and arrest those who choose to speed, drive aggressively and drink and drive.

"If you drink and drive, speed or drive aggressively this Labor Day weekend, you can expect to be stopped by a trooper," said Colonel Edward T. Norris, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "Troopers will also keep a watchful eye out for anyone who thinks he/she can conduct criminal activity while using Maryland's highways."

Each of the four regions across the state have been allocated 300 hours of federal funding for DUI, speed and aggressive driving enforcement. All four regions have specifically targeted areas for enforcement operations this weekend. One of the largest operations will be conducted in Prince George's County, "Operation SOLO"(Saving Our Loved Ones), a combined DUI enforcement effort with the Prince George's County Police. This will be a three hour training seminar kicked off by Colonel Norris with motivational speaker Denise Wagner, the victim of a DUI crash. At 11:00 p.m., officers and troopers will saturate specifically targeted areas for enforcement.

Troopers want to remind motorists traveling this Labor Day of the following: plan the trip carefully, leave early, make sure you are rested, stay alert and stay calm behind the wheel and make sure your vehicle is in good working order. The most important tips are: obey the speed limit, don't drink and drive, and always buckle up.

Motorists can report highway traffic hazards and suspected drivers under the influence by dialing #77 on their cellular phones or, for emergencies dial 9-1-1. Remember to always use your cell phone safely and reasonably while driving.

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ATTENTION MEDIA: The times and locations of the operations will be embargoed until they start. Media can call the local barracks in those counties to arrange coverage. You will be accommodated to every extent possible. Operation SOLO will be at Prince George's County Police H.Q., 7600 Barlowe Road, Palmer Park, MD.